

On Tuesday July 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Town Board Chair Eugene Stoeckel called the regular monthly Town Board meeting to order. Other Supervisors present were Bill Whitcomb, and Dave Persing. Greg Anderson and Thomas Duden were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

### **Approve Minutes**

A motion was made by David Persing and seconded by Bill Whitcomb to approve the June 18, 2019 regular monthly minutes with the following amendments: pg 1, para 8 add the words 'and navigate', pg 1, para. 13, correct to read 'Mr. Whitcomb asked if there was possibility. When's the last time we had anybody go to training, have we had anybody in the last.' pg 2, para 3, correct to read 'has had rollovers' and pg 4, para 2, correct to read 'to the Planning Commission.' Motion Carried.

### **Approve Financial Report**

A motion was made by David Persing and seconded by Bill Whitcomb to approve the Financial Report for June 2019 as submitted. Beginning Balance of Township funds was \$718,003.84; total receipts of \$9,333.64; total disbursements of \$204,355.14; leaving a balance of \$522,982.34. Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **Sherriff's Report**

Tony Erholtz gave an update on the calls in the Township.

### **Old Business**

**Discussion on Website.** After discussing options for a website, Eugene Stoeckel motioned to continue using the County website. Dave Persing seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Discussion on Recording Board Meetings.** Eugene Stoeckel stated that this meeting is already being recorded on Facebook. Bill Whitcomb motioned to have the board meetings digitally recorded. Andrea Gerrard, from Princeton MN Bulletin Board on Facebook, stated that recorded meetings can be downloaded and saved. Dave Persing wanted to amend the motion but wanted to know if there was a fee. Ms. Gerrard stated that there may be fees if the video needs editing. Bill Whitcomb withdrew his motion. Eugene Stoeckel stated that they can address the issue more in Open Forum.

**Contract Review for Attorney, Building Inspection & Engineering.** After some discussion, the Board decided to table the issue until the next meeting when they can review updated contracts from the current professionals.

**Road Report.** Bill Whitcomb gave an update on some recent projects. He stated that there has been maybe 500 yards of gravel put down within the last week and a half, and they will need to start tackling the pavement. Eugene Stoeckel stated that they can review more solid numbers for what they can do going ahead at next months' meeting.

Eugene Stoeckel stated that he was notified by the Soil & Water that there is a patch of Leafy Spurge on County Line Rd that needs to be sprayed. Stephanie Johnston stated that the Township used to use Central Applicators. Mr. Stoeckel stated that they will need to contact them.

### **New Business**

**Land Split, Scott Moller, Section 27.** Bill Whitcomb motioned to approve the Land Split for Scott Moller. Dave Persing seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Review Residential Recycling Drop Site at Town Hall.** The Board discussed several options with Stephanie Reynolds, Solid Waste Coordinator at Mille Lacs County for the Recycling Drop Site at the Township Hall, but did not come up with a new schedule. Dave Persing motioned to table the discussion until next month. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Discussion on Road Grader Position.** Eugene Stoeckel stated that at the aborted Special Meeting, the determination at that time was that they had no employee, so they could not have a closed door meeting to evaluate an employee because he resigned two days earlier. Adam Ripple stated that they can discuss the position but to the extent that they discuss personnel issues, that should not be on the discussion. He also stated that if they want to discuss the attorney-client privileges, those are items the meeting could be closed for to discuss them. Dave Persing

motioned to work through the agenda as it is and revisit it at a closed meeting towards the end. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Discuss Establishing a Policy for the Compensation and Reimbursement of Town Officers.** The Board discussed the reimbursement of Board members and whether there is a policy currently in place. Bill Whitcomb motioned to move forward with establishing a policy for compensation reimbursement of Town Officers, but he is OK with tabling it as long as they can move forward with it. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion with the idea that Bill fill in some of the numbers to have an idea of moving forward. Motion Carried.

**Discuss an Agreement for the Division of Maintenance responsibilities for a Town Line Road.** Eugene Stoeckel stated that they have road agreements with Greenbush and Bogus Brook but not with Wyanett Township for County Line Rd. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to have Bill Whitcomb pursue agreements with the City of Princeton and Wyanett Township for division of maintenance responsibilities. Bill Whitcomb amended the motion to include updating the Bogus Brook and Greenbush Township agreements.

### **Building Inspector's Report**

Todd Geske stated that he posted the Barn on 8605 70<sup>th</sup> St to formally post with Do Not Occupy, clearly defining what the Building Code's position is, for something that has the potential of being let out for commercial use.

### **Zoning Administrator's Report**

Scott Richards stated that a staff meeting was held discussing the barn at 8605 70<sup>th</sup> St. and an upcoming reunion and wedding that will be held for family and friends. He stated that Mr. Persing understands that if the use expands and he wants to make it into a venue or charging for it, he would need to get an Interim Use Permit. Mr. Richards stated that as long as the accessory buildings are used for private social events for friends and family, he does not need a special event permit.

Mr. Richards stated that he can work with the Planning Commission on Event Venues and Solar Farms.

Mr. Richards informed the Board that there will be a Public Hearing for a Sketch Plan & Preliminary Plat at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Richards stated that he had a request for lighted signs, which are now not allowed, but it can be a topic item down the road if they'd like.

### **Open Forum**

Wendy Wicktor stated that there is a lot in Spruce Haven that is substantially narrower in depth than the other lots in the area. She stated that it is almost impossible to put a house on the lot. Kristi Bernard stated that she would like to put in a wider home and would like lenience of 10 feet. Adam Ripple and Scott Richards explained that she would need to go through the process of a variance because it is not something the Board can grant tonight.

Andrea Gerrard, from Princeton MN Bulletin Board, explained what she does and explained that because there was interest in the community about the Township, she chose to start recording the meetings on Facebook live. Cyndi MacDonald asked if there needed to be a posting stating that the meeting is being recorded. Ms. Gerrard stated no because it is a public meeting. Marcia Anderson wanted to recommend to the Board that the meetings be recorded.

Debi Talley asked if the Township made an agreement with the City regarding 33<sup>rd</sup> St and 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. regarding the roads. Ms. Gerrard stated that the City is interested in talking with the Township because it was brought up at their last meeting. Eugene Stoeckel explained that the previous meeting they had with the City was just a general discussion about going forward.

Marcia Anderson stated that the Township needs to have better documentation.

Tari Zortman stated that writing everything down for policies and procedures is a big hassle but it will protect the Township in the long run.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Dave Persing gave an update on the Planning Commission meeting. He stated that he could not attend the next PC meeting and wanted to know if someone could attend in his place. Bill Whitcomb stated he could attend.

Bill Whitcomb stated that he asked Steve Hass to come and share information regarding grading, snow plowing and grass trimming. Steve Hass explained his services and stated that he currently does work for 6 other Townships.

Eugene Stoeckel gave an update on the Airport Advisory Board and the City Planning Commission meeting.

### **Clerk's Business**

The Clerk did not have anything to address.

### **Approve Payment of the Bills**

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Dave Persing to approve payment of the bills, Check numbers 12501-12534. Motion Carried.

### **Closed Meeting**

Eugene Stoeckel adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. to move into a closed meeting. Adam Ripple stated that they are closing the meeting, referencing 13D.05, subd. 3 Attorney-Client Privilege.

Open Meeting was called back to order at 9:50 p.m. Adam Ripple stated that the meeting was closed for Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the Road Grader position.

Mr. Ripple stated that there is a vacancy in the Road Grader position. The Board discussed whether to hire someone permanently or temporary and whether to hire someone or contract it out. Eugene Stoeckel stated that he thinks they should get a temporary operator for the next two months until they can advertise in August and hire in September.

Bill Whitcomb asked if Mr. Hass typically gives the Township a map showing everything they hit. Steve Hass stated yes for every days' work and if they gravel, the gravel and road put up. Mr. Stoeckel asked if Mr. Hass attended training. Mr. Hass stated no, he was asked thirty years ago, the lady that put the training on, and he said no. He trains enough people, he's not going to her class in training. Mr. Whitcomb asked if his operators have liability type insurance or some sort of training. Mr. Hass said you don't even need a drivers' license but you have to have an operator that knows what he's doing. Mr. Hass stated the Township intersections look pretty good matching the blacktops and he drove on every one.

Eugene Stoeckel motioned that they Township temporarily hire Hass Construction, for two months, and post for the August meeting and hire permanent in the September meeting. Mr. Whitcomb asked if they would decide between now and then if it's a contract or if it's an employee. Eugene Stoeckel stated yes. Mr. Persing asked if they could have a discussion at the next meeting. Eugene Stoeckel stated yes. Dave Persing seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Steve Hass stated that he needed one boss, 3 or 4 bosses don't work. Eugene Stoeckel stated that Mr. Whitcomb has been appointed as the Road Chief.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Bill Whitcomb and seconded by Dave Persing to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wubben  
Clerk/Treasurer

Attendees: John Roxbury, Jr., Mille Lacs County Deputy Tony Erholtz, Nancy Moan, Tari Zortman, Cyndi MacDonald, Joel Minks, Wendy Wicktor, Kristi Bernard, Kathy Stoeckel, Marcia Anderson, Steve Hass, Stephanie Johnston, Dale Thiel, Nicholas Taylor, Andrea Gerrard, Kathy Connell, Stephanie Reynolds, Cathy Stevens, Debi Talley, Kevin Walz, Cheryl Schimming, Mary Jensen, Jennie Toberman, Jerry Sands